

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68-13-6 Building Date: 1910

Building Name: Lebowitz Taylor Shop

Location: 3817 34th Street, Mt. Rainier

Private/Commercial/Occupied/Good/Accessible

Description

3817 34th Street is a two story, three bay, frame commercial building with a rectangular plan and east (rear) sloping shed roof. It is the northernmost of three similar buildings climbing the east side of 34th Street above Rhode Island Avenue. There is a facade-wide molded metal cornice separating the first and second stories. The facade is surmounted by a crown molded cornice supported by three brackets spaced evenly across the facade. The first story north bay has a single entrance with transom leading to the second story. The southern two-thirds of the first story contain a center entrance, recessed storefront flanked by projecting plate glass show windows set on rectangular bases. The second story has three 1/1 sash double-hung windows spaced evenly across the facade. The second story is sheathed with wood shingles; the unfenestrated portions of the first story and the entire unattached north facade are covered with aluminum siding.

Significance

The two story frame building at 3817 34th Street is an example of early 20th century mixed-use construction. Although the integrity of the facades has been lessened by the recent addition of non-historic materials, the early scale, fenestration and cornice are largely intact. As the northernmost shopfront in a three building block, the projecting show windows, cornices and straightforward facade contribute to the small town streetscape along 34th Street. The present building was apparently erected by 1910, when assessment records indicate an improvement valued at \$1,000. Its importance in the history of the community's commercial development is as the location for one of the early 20th century Mt. Rainiers longest operating business, the Lebowitz Tailor Shop. Harry Lebowitz opened a tailor shop in Mt. Rainier in 1909. He appears in a 1912 suburban directory, conducting his business on "34th Street above Rhode Island Avenue" in what is most likely 3817 34th Street, and resided in the apartment upstairs. Lebowitz purchased the building in 1914 and the property remained in the Lebowitz family until 1976.

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Lebowitz Tailor Shopand/or common 3817 34th Street

## 2. Location

street & number 3817 34th Street    not for publicationcity, town Mt. Rainier    vicinity of    congressional district 5state Maryland county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture	<u>  </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>X</u> commercial	<u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational	<u>X</u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment	<u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government	<u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial	<u>  </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military	<u>  </u> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Garland Blankenshipstreet & number 3414 Rhode Island Avenue telephone no.:   city, town Mt. Rainier state and zip code Maryland 20712

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4668street & number Main Street folio 768city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plandate 1981    federal    state X county    local   depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, M-NCPPC, CAB, Rm. 4010city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

## 7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #68-13-6

### Condition

☐ excellent

☐ good

☒ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

3817 34th Street is a two story, three bay, frame commercial building with a rectangular plan and east (rear) sloping shed roof. (See Slide #43.) This structure is the northernmost of three similar commercial buildings climbing the east side of 34th Street above Rhode Island Avenue. There is a facade-wide molded metal cornice separating the first and second stories. The facade is surmounted by a crown molded cornice supported by three brackets spaced evenly across the facade. The first story north bay has a single-door entrance with transom leading to the second story. The southern two-thirds of the first story contain a center entrance, recessed, single-door storefront flanked by projecting plate glass show windows set on rectangular plan bases. The second story has three 1/1 sash double-hung windows spaced evenly across the facade. The window at the north bay is slightly smaller than the other two. The second story is sheathed with wood shingles; the unfenestrated portions of the first story and the entire unattached north facade are covered with aluminum siding.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#68-13-6

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1910

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

## CONTRIBUTING

The two story frame building at 3817 34th Street (Block 1, Lot 22, Rhode Island Avenue Addition to Mt. Rainier) contributes to the character of the survey area as an example of early 20th century mixed-use construction. Although the integrity of the facades has been lessened by the recent addition of non-historic sheathing materials, the early scale, fenestration and cornice are largely intact. As the northernmost shop-front in a three building block, the projecting show windows, cornices and straightforward facade contribute to the small town streetscape along 34th Street with a variety of commercial, residential and mixed-use structures.

The present building was apparently erected by 1910, when assessment records indicate an improvement valued at \$1,000.<sup>1</sup> The property was then owned by Elizabeth Dungan who had purchased it from Messrs. Bigelow, Spalding and Rogers in December of 1909 (see Chain of Title).

The building is significant as one of the earliest commercial buildings in the downtown area. Its importance in the history of the community's commercial development is as the location for one of the early 20th century Mt. Rainiers longest operating business, the Lebowitz Tailor Shop. Harry Lebowitz (Liebovitch) opened a tailor shop in Mt. Rainier in 1909. He appears in a 1912 suburban directory, conducting his business on "34th Street above Rhode Island Avenue" in what is most likely 3817 34th Street, and resided in the apartment upstairs.<sup>2</sup> Lebowitz purchased the building in 1914 from Elizabeth Dungan and the property remained in the Lebowitz family until 1976 (see Chain of Title). The tailor shop operated there until at least 1946 when Lebowitz expanded his operations to include a clothing store in the building he erected in the late 1930's at 3402-3412 Rhode Island Avenue.<sup>3</sup>

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
Statement of Significance (continued)

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Survey No. PG #68-13-6

Section 8 Page 2

Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Land Records, E.D. 17, 1910, p. 147.
- 2 Nelson's Suburban Directory, 1912.
- 3 The Prince Georgian, 18 October 1946, p. 5.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Survey No. P. G. #68-13-6**

See Notes #8

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of nominated property** \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Washington East

**Quadrangle scale** \_\_\_\_\_

**UTM References** do NOT complete UTM references

**A**

Zone Easting Northing

**B**

Zone      Easting      Northing

**c**

D 

**E** \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

**G**

[illegible]

### Verbal boundary description and justification

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	Howard S. Berger, Consultant
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**organization** Historic Preservation Commission **date** March 1988

**street & number** 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive **telephone** 952-4609

city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

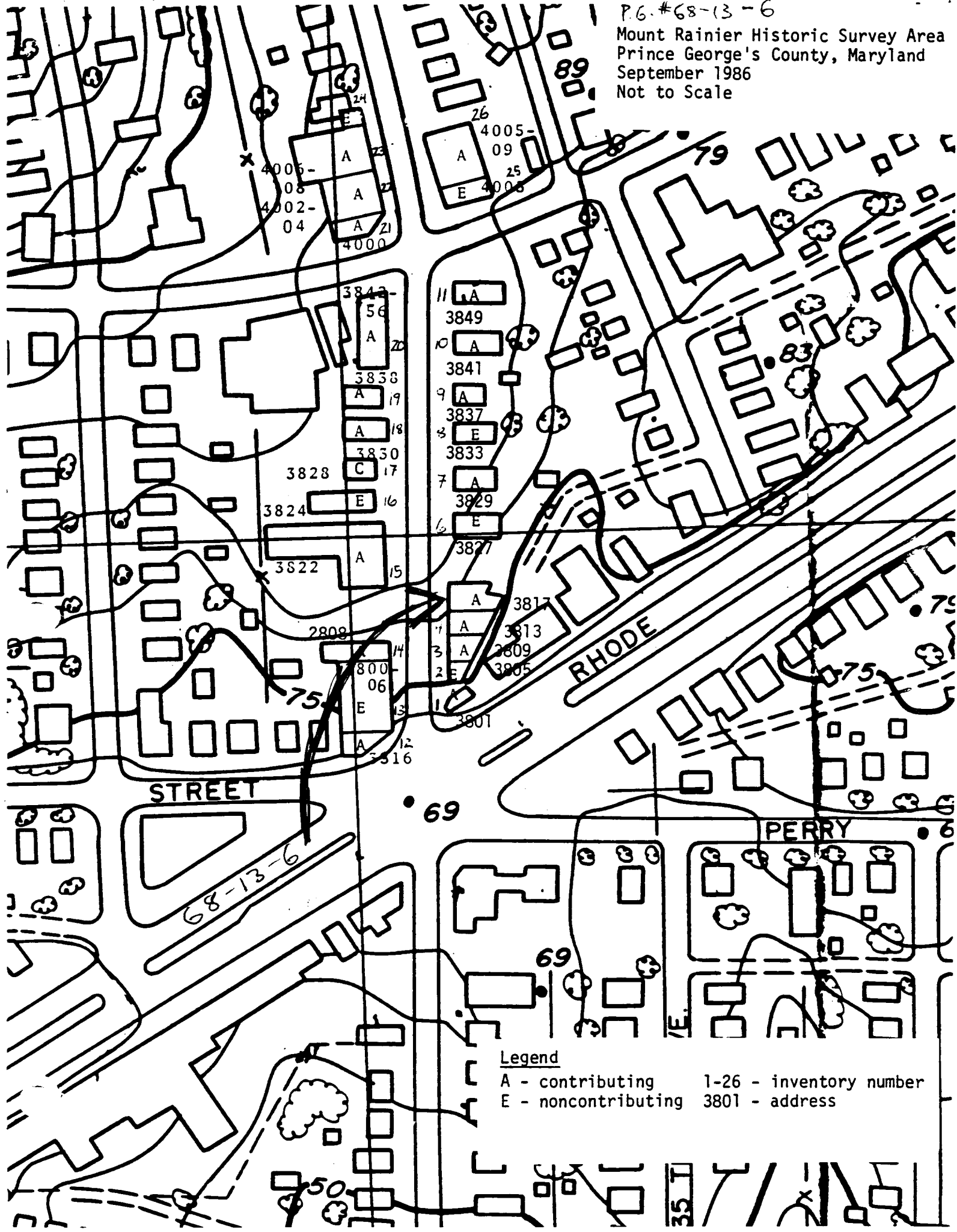
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

Chain of Title  
3817 34th Street  
PG #68-13-6

4668:768 31 May 1976 Deed	Martin J. Kirsch, Atty., Meryom Lebowitz, et al, devisees of Harry Lebowitz to Garland Blankenship. Grantors convey Lot 22 to Block 1, Rhode Island Avenue Addition to Mt. Rainier, excepting the south 2 feet front to rear of 22, previously conveyed and the rear 6 feet for use as public alley. Plat recorded JWB5:694 or A:6. Same obtained from Elizabeth Dungan, 6 February 1914, 98:209.
98:209 6 Feb 1914 Deed	Elizabeth Dungan to Harry Lebowitz. Grantor conveys Lot 22 in Block 1, excepting south 2 feet front to rear conveyed to Garnette A. Dungan, 6 February 1914, 98:210, and the rear 6 feet for use as a public alley. Same obtained from W. D. Bigelow, et al, 4 December 1909, 55:357.
55:357 4 Dec 1909 Deed	W. D. Bigelow, E. S. Spalding and J. Harris Rogers to Elizabeth Dungan. Grantors convey all of Lot 22 in Block 1, excepting the rear 6 feet for use as public alley. To clear title, this deed is made.

P. 6. #68-13-6

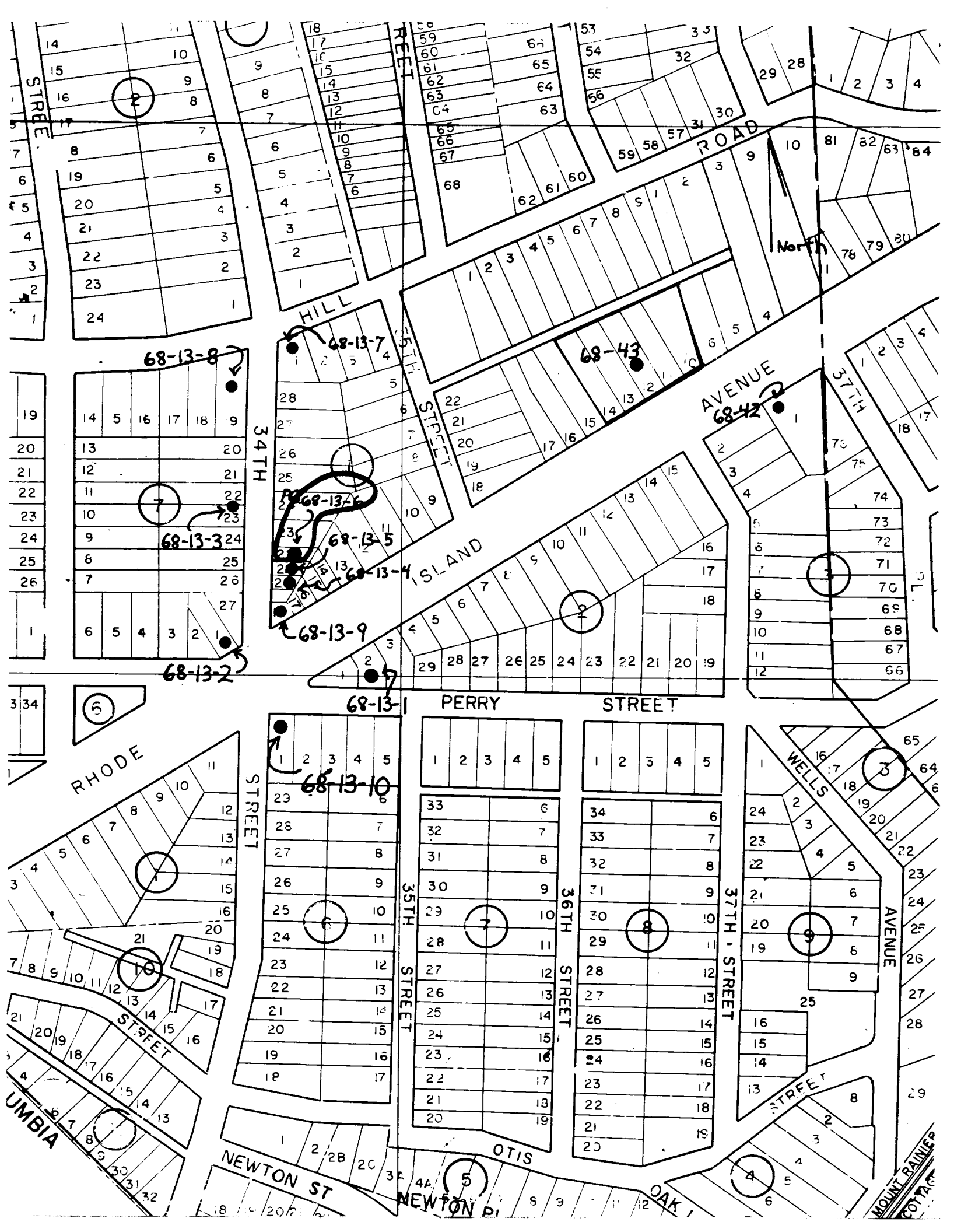
Mount Rainier Historic Survey Area  
Prince George's County, Maryland  
September 1986  
Not to Scale

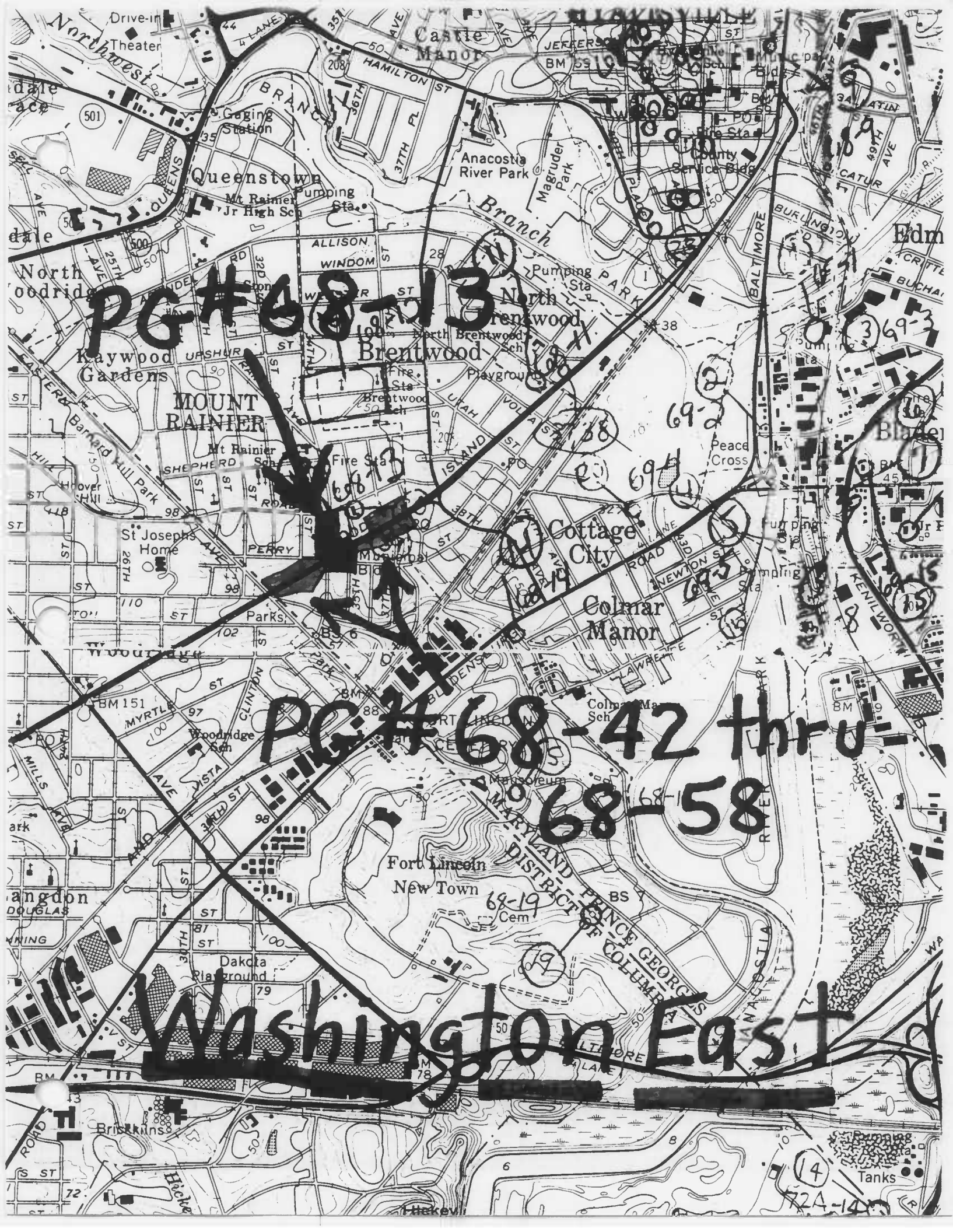


Legend

A - contributing	1-26 - inventory number
E - noncontributing	3801 - address







PG#68-13

PG#68-42 thru  
68-58

Washington East



P.G.# 68-13-6

Lebowitz Tailor Shop  
Prince George's County MD  
Howard Berger  
Fall, 1987

W

Meg: MD Historical Trust  
Annapolis, MD